

# Banko Janakari

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## Enhancing rangers' role !

The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, responsible for conserving Nepal's forests resources, recognises the important role of its manpower at various levels. The strength of coordinated efforts of its staff working at each level for the development of Nepal's forestry sector, is also well recognised. But, often been said at almost every meeting and seminar, by almost every informed observer, that there is a lack of coordination between its various departments. This problem also exists within the sections of the same office and within the staff. Why is this happening even though every one is talking about the need to establish co-ordination amongst each other ? No body seems to have an answer for it.

Sincerely speaking, the crucial reason for such a state of affairs is the creeping tendency of not paying sufficient attention of the strength of other and undervaluing others' work. This is nothing but an avoidable fallacy that we are having at present.

It is a moral and professional duty of all concerned to help eliminate such fallacies that prevail in one's mind, no matter who takes the initiatives; and it is good to see that our Ministry is responsive to undertake required measures. The way the Ministry recently heeded to the rangers' voice is worth recording. It is a confirmation that the Ministry greatly values to the rangers as the main work-force behind the implementation of Nepal's forestry policy; and their strength is some thing to reckon with.

About fifteen hundred rangers deputed to look after the country's five-and-half million hectares of forest lands have



certainly a challenging job. This makes a simple calculation that one ranger has almost an impossible task to take care of more than 3600 ha. of forest lands, majority of which are at difficult terrain. Also considering that the community forestry in Nepal is increasing on a large scale, rangers' role to help implement this programme has become increasingly pronounced. All these factors indicate that rangers' support to the Nepal's forestry sector is second to none. So, it is at this level of forestry manpower that more efficiency is sought. It is in this context that the rangers need to be assured of opportunities for their professional growth and career advancement through regular exposure to on-the-job training and other avenues of professional enrichment. Giving the rangers more incentives could be, one of the crucial ways, of improving their efficiency.

No wonder if the Ministry or the related authorities are thinking the matter seriously.

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